OBI IS A BOY



Logline/Synopsis: A femme-presenting young man returns home for his mother's funeral and is forced to navigate the violence and gender expectations that have shaped his fractured relationship with his father and his place in the community.

Film length:16 minutes

Year of production: 2025

Country of production: Nigeria

Film Contact: dikaofoma@gmail.com

Director's statement:
Obi Is a Boy is a deeply personal film. I grew up very aware that I was falling short of the expectations society had for me as a boy. It bothered me for years, and I tried to fix myself. But as I got older, I began to appreciate my difference. I didn't need to be like other boys; I had to learn my own version of masculinity.

The film draws directly from this experience. Through Obi, I examine my fraught relationship with gender norms in Nigeria and narrate my own journey toward acceptance. His return home, and the tension with his father, reflects the broader reality of what happens when identity challenges cultural and societal expectations. Obi's final act–choosing to inhabit his femininity openly–is not a declaration made in safety, but an act of survival.

Obi Is a Boy is my way of challenging the narratives that erase queer lives in Nigeria. It is a story about the cost of authenticity, the weight of inherited expectations, and the small but powerful gestures through which we reclaim ourselves.

Director's Bio

Dika Ofoma is a Nigerian filmmaker and writer whose work explores identity, masculinity, memory, and the emotional textures of everyday Nigerian life. He is the director of the short films *God's Wife*, *A Quiet Monday*, and *A Japa Tale*. His films have screened at international festivals such as the IFFR, Clermont-Ferrand, and Kurzfilmtage Internationale Winterthur.

A 2026 Berlinale Talent, Dika's debut feature project *Kachifo*, was selected for the 2025 Locarno Open Doors, where it received three awards: the Open Doors Grant Award, the Arte Kino Award, and the SØRfond Award. *Kachifo* was also selected for La Fabrique Cinema at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival.

Guided by a deep commitment to empathy and nuance, Dika's filmmaking centres intimate reflections of Nigerian life and culture, often drawing from personal experience to illuminate voices and perspectives rarely foregrounded on screen.

Cast

Uche Uba

Ofiafuluagu Mbaka

Ebele Okaro

Key Crew

Director: Dika Ofoma

Writers: Dika Ofoma & Blessing Uzzi

Producer: Blessing Uzzi & Mary-ann Eziekwe

Director of Photography: Muhammed Attah

Editor: Ajala Adebayo & Afolabi Olalekan

Production Design: Anita Ashiru